

A
COMPLAINT

On the PART of

The Hon. *Thomas Hervey*, *N*

Concerning an UNDUE PROCEEDING
against him at Court.

SET FORTH

In two Letters to her Highness the
Princess of *Brunswick*.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

Two other Letters, written at *Bath*, to the
illustrious Lady, who makes the subject of
the former.

TOGETHER WITH

A COPIOUS SUPPLEMENT to the Preface,
never before printed.

I have learn'd long since, to bear revenge, or scorn my wrongs
according to the value of the doer.

OTWAY.

THE THIRD EDITION.

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A
COMPLAINT

W. Musgrave.

The Hon. Thomas Fowell Buxton,

Concerning an undue Proceeding
against him at Court.

SET FORTH

In two Letters to the Hon. Buxton the



TO WHICH ARE ADDED

Two other Letters, written at Paris to the
Hon. Buxton, who was the subject of
the former.

TOGETHER WITH

A Curious Story of the History of the
British Museum.

I have recently long and in detail written a history of the
British Museum, and of the various
accidents and events of its history.

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Printed for and published by the Author, and
by the Booksellers of London and Westminster.
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THE
AUTHOR
TO THE
READER.

I Did not presume to print the following letters, from a vain conceit, that they contain'd any thing important enough to interest the reader; but from an hope, that they wou'd have such comments and animadversions made upon them, as the nature of the case seems to deserve. It not only sets forth a stretch of power I had little reason to expect; but shews likewise, that my grievance, even after a very humble remonstrance, was treated with the most imperious disregard. I recommend them therefore to the perusal of the public, partly as a lesson, and partly as an appeal: but not at all as a matter of curiosity, or entertainment.

----- *Crimine ab uno*
Disce omnes.

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Before

Before my own wrongs had urged me to make an appeal to the public, I was ever an advocate for such references: being thoroughly persuaded, that, Heaven excepted, no tribunal is more just and upright in it's decisions. And I have been farther convinced of the fitness and utility of this practice, by my old anonymous *friend*; who in a fresh specimen he has favor'd me with, of his folly, ignorance, and brutality, seems entirely to explode it. Though this vile assassin, has pester'd me for some years with his nauseous correspondence, I have agreed with him but in one single thing: and that is, the mode of his disguising himself: a paper mask, being unquestionably most suitable to such a paper skull. I am perfectly satisfy'd at present, that the Author of all this unmeaning ribaldry, is the same person that I saw at the play about two years ago, with that delicate and beauteous Heroine, who makes the subject of his fabulous tale. Unaccompany'd with any body of her own sex, there was my *Pandora*! my truly *sinister* spouse! tack'd cheek by jowl, or, as the medallists more aptly describe such union, *capita jugata*, to this dirty fellow, during the whole performance. But when this virtuous lady comes to be inform'd, that the publishing of my letters to *her*, is entirely owing

owing to an injurious surmise in his to *me*; I am apt to think, that the wages of this doughty champion, alias *Bully*, will be stopt: which I confess, at the same time, to be very inadequate to his services. Amongst other lies this iniquitous impostor has told of me, it appears, by various instances, that I stand charged with having debauch'd her: a species of guilt, that from my earliest years, I never thought, or heard of, but with the utmost abhorrence. Self-defence, however, makes all things excusable: and as no appurtenance of that self, is so dear and valuable to a man, as his good name; I cannot but think, my reader will not only approve, but applaud, the means I have used, to refute so flagitious an imputation. I had shun'd and flighted this bold, beggarly Adventurer, in such a manner, that the mortification given to her vanity, made her, at times, so intemperate, as to expose herself to great derision and reproach. So far was I, therefore, from seducing her, that if she had had but one single grain of that pride and spirit, which are the firmest guardians of our honour, I shou'd not now have been fighting over my paper, at the lamentable reflection, of having sacrificed twenty thousand pounds, to the preservation of a character, of as little account, in appearance, with
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it's possessor, as were the gratifications allow'd to the possessor of herself. That she is debauch'd, very debauch'd, I am very ready to grant: but Dame Nature was the pander, and required no other solicitor. My anonymous *Friend*, as I have already stiled, and the motly monster wou'd fain have me think him; has quoted to me my letter to Lord Shelburne: by which it appears, that I have unhappily incurr'd his displeasure, for having call'd his paramour, a *paragon* in infamy. But I wou'd advise him, in consideration of our *friendship*, not to cite that remonstrance any more: because I have authenticated the contents of it, by an oath.

I am most unfeignedly concern'd to have been provoked a-new, to commit this farther trespass upon my candid reader, and arbitrator: but cou'd I make known to him, the relief which an afflicted mind, overborne with grief and indignation, receives from such avoidance of it's sorrows; I am inclined to think, that he wou'd pardon much greater obtrusions. The pangs of injured innocence, and unrequited friendship, like those of death, can be judged of only by those who have felt them.

Unblemish'd let me live, or dye unknown;
O grant an honest fame, or grant me none!

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It is a most horrid sensation; but I may very truly say with David, "My Strength faileth me for very trouble." And yet, tho' I am as weary of my undertaking, as my reader may be of me; I shall beg his leave to pursue my story: in despite of the rebukes, of the conceited, officious coxcomb, already mention'd; who has taken upon him to admonish me as freely, and repeatedly, as if he were inquisitor general, and licensed censor of the whole nation. Audacious Ruffian! The hardened, abject wretch, has the confidence even to vaunt of his annoying me thus, *because* he can use the means with impunity. But a superior vengeance, 'tis to be hoped, will overtake him.

To recurr, then, to the Princess of Brunswick, the source of all my new griefs and perplexity, I shall make no difficulty to averr, that cou'd she know as I do, the exquisite misery I am suffering on her account; and abhor as I do, the thoughts of being Author of any great evil to my fellow creature; I wou'd not have her conscience, for her brother's crown. But this is not the whole. The charge I have brought against her, consists of no less, than an attack, at once, upon my health, my peace, my freedom, fortune, and, perhaps, my *fame*.
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I say, perhaps, my fame; because the unnatural and unprecedented intervention of the crown, which she weakly solicited, and procured, in behalf of her vile client, carry'd with it strong presumptions, that such a grace cou'd not have been obtain'd, without shewing cause. And yet no such cause has appear'd, or been alledged against me, either before, or since I suffer'd, this merciless violence. I will venture to tell her Highness, that such practices, as Mr. Shippen once said in the House of Commons, seem calculated for the meridian of *Germany*, rather than the court of Great-Britain. But I am so thoroughly convinced of the singularity of my grievance, that if the thing admitted of enquiry and proof, and it were made appear, that any innocent subject of Barbary had endured the like, I would be content to suffer death, and death by torture. His Majesty, I thank God, cannot but own, that sovereigns *may* err, as well as other men: because it is to the follies and iniquities of some of his predecessors, that we owe the inestimable blessings and advantages, of his now filling the throne. And yet He, as well as his inflexible Sister*, after the thoroughest

* Her Highness may make as light as she pleases, of the charge brought against her, but she will never be able to make light the Impeachment itself: for I know some, who already
hate,

roughest disquisition of the point in question between us, instead of rectifying their error, have chosen to verify Mr. Dryden's observation; who says,

Forgiveness to the injured doth belong;
But they ne'er pardon, who have done the wrong.

In matters merely notionary, and hypothetically proposed only, very few things are to be thought exceptionable. I shall, therefore, without the least reserve or apprehension, take the liberty to quote a passage in a political essay of my own, written some time ago: in the course of which,

bate, and many more, that loudly condemn her for what she has done. And if the consequences of her transgression, do not prove further fatal in respect of myself; they have provoked me, at least, to disinherit a Child that I dearly loved: who, when he comes to be better inform'd of the nature of his obligations to her Highness, and his infamous *mother*, will, without all doubt, for ever execrate their names. Unnatural, ungrateful, and inhuman Monster! To be plaintiff as I am, in fact, and yet, by the wicked artifices of this murderous *Gorgon*, to have the *onus defendendi* put upon me; is such a diabolic machination, as none but herself cou'd have devised. After the horrid havock that he perceives made in my poor family, I think even my reader will grieve to hear, that the cruellest parts of what I have related, might have been easily prevented, either by the Bishop of Winchester, or Lord Bristol. But these noble-minded gentlemen, without the shadow of an objection (as I can *prove*) to the means respectively proposed to each, most indecently declined them. Cold friends are very despicable creatures, but false ones are abominable.

which, I have *occasionally* asserted, that a Prince who disdains to give a reason *for* his will, and expresses an impatience at any that are given against it, has the fundamentals of a tyrant in him. And as I hereby declare, with great singleness of heart, that this doctrine was not first suggested to me, by any personal cause or considerations; or is, at present, personally apply'd to any one; I do further declare, that I wou'd maintain the truth and purport of it, to the last moment of my life. The famous Mr. Andrew Fletcher, who was so strenuous an opposer of the lawless measures of King Charles the 2d, and his brother, bequeathed to us an opinion, very worthy to be adopted by all nations: which is, that "Sovereigns should be intrusted
 "with little more power, than that of doing
 "good." And this truly patriotic tenet, appears to me so entirely void of all *heresy*, in respect of monarchical government; that no virtuous Rulers of this kind, methinks, cou'd repine at seeing their authority so circumscribed: because the Deity himself, whose vicegerents they are *call'd*, according to the learned in theology, is supposed to be under similar restrictions. I have had the sense of divers gentlemen, upon my general question; which is, whether his Majesty, with whom I had bar-
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ter'd my office for these pensions, cou'd in equity have the disposal of both: and they unanimously decided it in the negative.

I wish with all my soul, that all the princes of the earth, from that time to this, had been as delicately form'd, as the emperor Charles the 5th: whose memory I revere much more, for one single sentiment ascribed to him, than all the military glory and atchievements of his whole reign. His Majesty having been sollicitated, with some importunacy, by the priests, and other bigots of his court, to break his engagement with Luther; he reply'd, with a spirit and indignation suitable to such an affront, that, "if *Honour* cou'd possibly be banish'd from every other quarter, the palaces of princes ought to give it refuge." I cou'd not have remember'd this aphorism, had it not made a very deep and lively impresson upon my mind. And if I know myself in aught, it is in the respect I have universally, and invariably paid to *Character*. And this affection in me, where it's objects are truly great and noble, so nearly approaches worship, that I am under some doubt, whether I have strictly kept the second commandment. I am sorry, nevertheless, very sorry to say, that few of my *idols* have been royal.

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But to return to my own dread sovereign, I was about to tell the friendly reader, that be his Majesty ever so tenacious of his will, he will not find me at all less so of *my Rights*: for I am determined to assert and vindicate them, by every means in my power. Having already had counsel upon the subject of the arrears due upon my pensions; I am told, that they cannot be with-holden from me, consistently with common honesty; and that I have as good an action against Mr. Bull, who at that time presided in the pay-office, for having issued any money on that score, before my debt was discharged, as if the debt had been primarily his own. Another gentleman of the faculty, perceiving me much incensed at the injustice that had been done me; and imagining I was desirous to give all the eclat I cou'd to my complaint; advised me to file a bill in chancery against the King, and make the attorney general a party. But this method of proceeding was over-ruled, the other expedient being thought more eligible. Lord Gage is therefore to prepare himself for this encounter.

It is now three years and an half, since the Princess of Brunswick did me the *honour*, to petition his Majesty to enquire into the state of my family; to supersede me in the government
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of it, and graciously put it under new regulations, of his own appointing. And yet, the allowance I had from *my* father, having never exceeded an hundred and twenty pounds a year, if I shou'd be so bold to say, that I am not in the least satisfy'd with his arrangement, I hope it will be deem'd no treason. Alas! Alas! what monsters doth our foolish vanity make of us! that men can persist in errors, to avoid the mistaken shame of retracting 'em: and do violence to their consciences, rather than hurt their pride. As able a lawyer as ever this country produced, speaking in the personage of his sovereign, says, *Nihil possumus, quod non de jure possumus*. And that same sovereign being one of the most illustrious of our princes, it is great pity, that this popular maxim was not made the motto to his arms; instead of that unmeaning remnant of *Poperie*, *Dieu, et mon droit*. I take the freedom to call it unmeaning, because it is, in fact, an ostentatious nothing. The king of this country, having, avowedly, no *Rights* but what have been derived of the people, has as little reason to apprehend any real infringement of them, as Mr. Dimmock has, in throwing his

* Bracton : in the reign of Henry the 2d.

gauntlet, to look for a disputant of his title to the crown. By a daily exhibition of this compendium of the law, his Majesty wou'd find a monitor, and his subjects a comforter, under the same *image*: which might serve to curb every vain Desire of one, and remove, as I hope, all the *vainer* fears of the other. The latter attainment is most highly to be wish'd: because we are so unhappily jealous about our liberties, that like the suspicious husbands of beautiful women, we have almost as much pain as pleasure, in the possession of them.

To cheer the spirits, and recruit the patience of my indulgent reader, it may not be improper to let him know, that I am coming to a conclusion. Yet before I finally dismiss him, I beg leave to exhibit to his view, a more *special* example of ingratitude, than those already mention'd, in the person of Lord Bristol. Nor have I the least doubt of his agreeing in opinion with me, that, of all mankind, my noble kinsman stands most supremely entitled, to the

-----*Digito monstrarier, Hic est!*

Having ever thought, that friendship is by far the noblest of all our affections; it has been a constant object of emulation with me, to be
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thought the noblest of friends. And I cannot but flatter myself, that I shall need no other proof of my sincerity in this respect, than the present instance. No asseverations being wanted to enforce self-evident truths; it is scarce necessary to inform the reader, that it would require a very warm and steadfast zeal in him, to serve his family upon a general view, when he personally disliked those, who were to reap the immediate benefit of it. And as my unworthy Nephews, have urged me to so invidious a confession, I declare this to have been *my* case.

When I went to that very critical election at Bury, upon which I foresaw that the Ickworth interest entirely depended; I had not been

N. B. Upon the death of my father, it was discovered, that the unnatural wretch had robb'd me of a *third* fortune, by secretly destroying his marriage settlement: of which his steward, who had often seen it, had engaged himself publicly to make oath. In mitigation of this wrong, whereby my son was left entirely unprovided for, I made a proposal to my Nephew, to give me a little relief. His lordship, however, without the least hesitation or demurr, very peremptorily rejected it: and not in a manner barely to be call'd uncivil, but with apparent marks of a most contemptuous indignation. Such an insult, I apprehend, wou'd have changed him, yet it did not change *me*. But upon a most shamefully evasive answer he gave, to a suit of no less importance, I finally threw away the *scabbard*; and secretly regret, I own, that nature has by any other means sheath'd my sword. For the hatred I bear *him*, as well as his brother Augustus, is utterly inexpressible.

been, for near a month, above four times out of my house, and not above twice as often out of my bed. I went thither likewise at the hazard of my life; the small pox raging in the town like a pestilence. Farther to enhance the merit of these obligations, as well as the demerit of the receiver; I take this occasion to make known to the world, and upon my veracity, that I am two hundred and sixty odd pounds the poorer for his lordship's service. Stupendous shame! But of all the distasteful things that have happen'd to me in my tedious commerce with him, nothing ever offended me more, than his giving no answer, to a complaint I had prefer'd against two of his brothers; who, conscious that I am wasting my days in almost insupportable misery, importuned me to make a sixth journey to Bury. A silence so unseemly, upon a subject so provoking, gave me reason to suspect, that this stately *viceroy*, as Bishop Burnet observes of more *thorough* kings, "thought he stood acquitted of all acknowledgments of the favors I had heap'd upon *him*, "by the grace he did *me* in accepting of "them." This beneficent gentleman, who is at the head of a very numerous family, has had the honour, now, if I am rightly inform'd, to have quarrel'd with every individual member of it.

If the christian doctrines be truly orthodox, which require us to return good for evil; what accursed wretches are they, who return evil for good? Machiavel, I believe, is the only author, that has attempted to account for such ingratitude. But this celebrated politician, and casuist, has observed, that too abundant favors, frequently operate to the disadvantage of the bestower. I do not pretend to give you his own words, though I think myself perfectly master of his thought. His meaning, if I mistake not, is, that when a person has obliged his friend to the degree of insolvency, his pride is apt to make the sense of that bondage grow painful to him; and, having no other means of releasing himself, he takes the first opportunity to quarrel with his benefactor. God forbid, that such depravity shou'd be general: and yet I fear there are many more examples of it, than the advocates for the dignity of human nature, are disposed to allow, or the well-wishers to it's happiness, believe.

And now, my good and gracious readers, having closed my evidence, I most thankfully dismiss my jury: begging their permission, notwithstanding, to take my leave of them, with
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the words of Sir Robert Walpole, in concluding a pathetic speech of his in the House of Commons. "To your Justice, gentlemen, I appeal, to your judgment I submit."



And now, my good and gracious readers, having closed my evidence, I most thankfully beg your permission, without further to take my leave of them, with the

LETTER

LETTER the First.

MADAM,

I Shou'd scarce think myself warranted in giving you this trouble, had not the motive to it most grievously troubled me. His Majesty is so universally reputed good, that there is little more reason to doubt of his claim to that attribute, than the Deity's. And yet you prevail'd upon him to do me a wrong, so complicated a wrong, as I think he would not have been guilty of, knowingly, for another kingdom. The Resentment of it brought an additional fever upon my spirits, which confined me ten or eleven weeks; and if my sensations did not deceive me, was very near costing me my life: I am still feeling, as may be testified, very pernicious and dangerous consequences from it. The bare mention, Madam, of such an arbitrator as you, in a matter of domestic strife in a private family, is

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an abomination: but your becoming an efficient advocate in such a cause, is a violation of all the rights, and rules of right, that ever had being amongst men. But cou'd that good sense, which governs you, I am told, in other things, have so far fail'd you in this particular instance, as to conceive, that such appeals were cognizable before the throne: still must your Highness allow, that a partial hearing of them is the most flagrant injustice. Shou'd you, therefore, have subjected your rigid, righteous Brother, to such an impeachment, how will you account with *him*? I have so high an opinion of his Majesty's rectitude of heart, that I am persuaded, if the circumstances of the tenure by which I obtain'd and held my pensions, had been properly set forth to him, no misrepresentations on the part of their claimant, nor the most earnest solicitations on your own, cou'd have induced him to commit such an act of violence as I am complaining of; especially, as the unhappy sufferer has been, notoriously, the most injured and afflicted man, in all his dominions. The Pensions, for example, were not the mere fruits of the late King's bounty, but had been granted to me by compromise: I relinquish'd a better thing in lieu of them. As they partake thus far of
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the nature of a purchase, the property was unquestionably to be in the purchaser. I accordingly received them, till your Highness became a suitor for the alienation for them : and not by virtue of this title only, but by special agreement with those to whom you got them assign'd ; and the conditions of this agreement, no power on earth cou'd, equitably, dispense with. I was told, nevertheless, when I sent my agent to the office, that this covenant was cancel'd, and my claim superseded, without any voucher appearing of the authority by which it was effected. Some intimations, indeed, had been insolently given me, of what was doing under the direction of your Highness and Lord Shelburne ; but as I cou'd not give credit, I scarcely gave ear to it : And upon applying to Mr. Grenville for some further satisfaction, in a matter so interesting, I found him as utterly uninform'd as myself. I was not at all inclined to dispute his Majesty's will, nor knew I, if I had been so disposed, any means of controuling it.

But before I quit this very irksome subject, it may not be improper to inform you, that there was a very considerable arrear due upon the pensions ; which made the transfer, at such a time, doubly detrimental. This being

the exact state of my case, it were needless, Madam, to observe, that by your untoward dealings with me, you have converted this little benefaction from the crown, into one of the greatest grievances of my whole life.

It is my firm and fix'd belief, Madam, that when his Majesty shall come to know the various ills to which you have made him accessory, it will abate of his affection for you. You have tempted him to bruise the broken reed, by taking part with the oppressor, against the oppress'd : which is very unlike the King of Kings ; who, amongst all the powers and attributes ascribed to him, has none so great and glorious, as " helping them to right, that " suffer wrong." This alone, Madam, is a most heinous aggravation of your cruelty. But to quicken my sense of it more abundantly, it has been inflicted on me, in behalf of the most detestable creature, that ever dishonour'd an human shape : one that, to all the ordinary failings in a female conduct, has added the most matchless ingratitude, and inhumanity. There is scarce an offence or injury to be conceived, that I have not suffer'd from her. Such reproach and guilt, one shou'd think, cou'd admit of no enhancement : but they will be hugely increased, when I protest to you, that,
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from the time I became her friend, I have made her pleasures and interest the sole objects of my attention: almost to the total exclusion of the only selfish view I have had in my whole life: I mean, the recovery of my long lost health, and peace of mind.

In fine, Madam, you must excuse me, if I take my leave, with the most solemn assurance, that I would not do what I have suffer'd from you, to be indulg'd in the very foremost of my wishes. And, although I do not perceive in myself any emotions of malevolence towards you, I should be highly pleas'd to know, that some part of this remonstrance had touch'd your conscience: because, in my own mind, few things are less supportable, than a sense of shame. If, on the contrary, you can entirely forgive yourself, I shall not long repine at it. But I must forget, e'er I forgive: which will not be the case, I fear, till I expire. I am, with all due respect,

Your Highness's

most obedient, and

Bond-Street,

very humble servant,

Jan. 4th

THOMAS HERVEY.

P. S.

P. S. His Majesty having misunderstood Lord Halifax's application to him on my behalf; I hoped to have prevail'd upon the Bishop of Winchester to explain, and settle that matter: But I found his Lordship so perfect a courtier, and so imperfect a friend, that I am ashamed of having been so long and faithfully his. His Lordship may remember, that he was very essentially obliged to me some years ago; because it was by my interest, and my interest solely, in the Duke of Grafton and Lady Sundon, that he was restored to his chaplainship.

This Letter was accompany'd with the following Advertisements, publish'd in the daily papers in the year 1763.

WHereas Mrs. Hervey has been three times from home last year, and at least as often the year before, without either my leave, or privity, and has encouraged her Son to persist in the like rebellious practices; I hereby declare, that I neither am, nor will be accountable, for any future debts of hers whatever. She is now keeping forcible possession of my house, to which I never did invite, or thought of inviting her, in all my life.

THO. HERVEY.

Another in the same year.

HAVING lately received another anonymous letter, containing an inuendo highly injurious to my reputation ; I will so far befriend the contemptible, brutal author of it, as to advise him to remain for ever conceal'd, lest I shou'd not allow him the accustom'd means of defending himself against my just resentment. I declare, at the same time, to him, and to all the world, upon the faith and honour of a gentleman, that I have not a single grief, either of mind, body, or fortune, though very sensibly suffering in all, but what I owe to the worthless subject of his remonstrance. No body living stood more in need of a friend, than her good ladyship ; and none had ever found a nobler. Shou'd I, therefore, receive any further molestation from her weak advocates, who have been her greatest enemies, I shall publish her last penitential letter, bearing date in July, 1761 ; for it is since, that many of the capital, and most unpardonable of her transgressions, have been committed. I think, however, that the conscience which would not serve *her* as a monitor, will, in time, be *my* avenger.

THO. HERVEY.

LETTER the Second.

MADAM,

IT is undeniably a right of the injured to complain, whatever may be thought of their title to redress. I have been obliged to assert this right likewise in practice; by troubling you with a long letter, which nothing but the urgency of my griefs and wrongs cou'd have provoked me to. But were I in a country, where death might await the utterance of my complaints, I am persuaded that I shou'd expose myself to it, rather than bear oppression silently. None of our feelings is attended with so much anguish and impatience, as the sense of being overborne by power. There is, indeed, such a natural and universal abhorrence of it, that it is not necessary to be the sufferer, to excite in us the utmost indignation. The most trifling contests that chance exhibits to us in the streets, never fail to verify these observations. And yet the very serious and pathetic remonstrance I laid before your Highness, upon a violence of this nature done to *me*, and for which you are principally accountable, seems to have made no impression upon you at all. I might reasonably hope, Madam, that you would have vouchsafed to let me know, whether you had shewn my letter to

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his Majesty : because, if it should be his royal will to abide by this arbitrary proceeding, I shou'd be rid at least of my suspense, and abide, on my part, by his determination. I can only say, that shou'd this be his final pleasure, it will prove a painful pleasure to me. Yet may it be hoped, that I shall have leave to think suitably of it ; for thoughts, I presume, will remain for ever free, when nothing else may. But, in truth, I am too sorely vex'd, Madam, to have any further reserve upon this subject ; and therefore do not scruple to declare, that where the distressful circumstances of the sufferer had been previously made known *, I much doubt, whether any other sovereign in Europe, wou'd have been guilty of so severe an exertion of his authority. The human heart so naturally recoils and yearns at cruelty, that where we perceive no signs of this sensibility, the creature may be very fairly pronounced unhumanized. My expressions are vehement, but they are just. They that feel much, cannot but speak feelingly. I have done no wrong, and thence derive an additional resolution, resignedly, to suffer none. Patient as any man, under

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* Lord Halifax was so kind, at my request, to shew his Majesty my letter to the late King.

such fortuitous evils as are unavoidable ; but more impatient than any, under wilful violences : “ for a wounded spirit who can bear ? ” Had my property only been in question, you might have been somewhat less blameable : but I am enduring pains on your account, little inferior to torture : and misery admits of no retribution from its author.

To be plain, I did not promise myself much advantage from my application to you : yet you surpris'd me, I confess, by treating it with so contemptuous a disregard. Your Highness cannot, surely, have so mistaken a sense of any thing, as to conceive that your birth and rank will colour an offence : on the contrary, they only render it more hideous. But granting that power might usurp the place of reason, and give sanction to misdoings : to commit a trespass because we may, were to make our motive, more shameful than the deed.

The truly compassionate gentleman, to whose care and counsel my good friend, the Bishop of Derry, recommended me, said to me, with tears in his eyes, that “ I must own, “ Sir, you have been most singularly unfortunate ; for I am certain, that what has be- “ fallen you, never happen'd before, and will “ never happen again.” And yet, this peer-
less

less wretch have you gone out of your way, extremely out of your way, to heap new and needless evils upon. I have been told, by unquestionable authority, that the constant admonition of King George the First to his Ministers was, " Pray take care that I do no " wrong:" alledging, as was partly imply'd in the precaution, " that he was wholly unacquainted with the temper of his people, and " nature of their government." But this is very memorable, Madam, because it is wondrous noble. I am still inclined to believe, that neither his Majesty, or you, can have seen your error in its full extent, or ye cou'd not have persisted in it. I wou'd not have put myself in the power of the crown, cou'd I have apprehended such an abuse of it. And this circumstance being duely consider'd, the transaction becomes, in part, a breach of trust. To which may be added, that, if I cou'd afford two hundred pounds a year for the maintainance of a school-boy, I shou'd chuse to have the merit of such a munificence, placed to my own account. And yet, the arrears excepted, I might not have grudged this money, if it had been rightly appropriated and expended: but my punctilious, upright lady, has not only plunder'd *me*, but is defrauding my son; and by her piracies on
both,

both, makes us jointly contribute, to the support of her own beggarly relations.

What I have already set forth is sufficiently severe ; yet a remark of no small account, is still to be super-added. Which is, that by the same unequitable measure, I am dispossest of all dominion over my little family ; and an independence is establish'd for two reprobates, who, by the laws of nature, were just as much my subjects, as I am one of his Majesty's.

I have urged my expostulations with some freedom ; but you have warranted me in so doing, by your injurious treatment of me ; which, in the minds of the generous and good, will give a slave the ascendancy of his master. For persecution dignifies a man, provided he sustains himself with fortitude and equanimity under it. And the little sense that remain'd about my dissipated and enfeebled mind, has always directed, and, I thank God, enabled me, to preserve my temper.

In both my addresses to you, I do averr, I have related nothing but the strictest truth ; and truth, methinks, shou'd be better received than it is at palaces, because it visits them but seldom. If you can think ; I shall flatter myself that I have made you also feel : but when I had the honour to be an inmate of the court,

court *, reflection, as well as feeling, appear'd to be entire aliens there.

Had I the honour to be better known to you, you would not suspect me of boasting, when I tell you, I have been, through life, the bubble of my own heart, by letting its affections carry me beyond the bounds of prudence, and worldly policy: they have been very traitors to me. For this fascinating disposition, has prompted me to do many benefits, where I both saw that they were little due, and wou'd be as little requited. But the revising so foul and unequal a reckoning, is past bearing. The wounds we receive from ingratitude, are of a pungent, poisonous nature; corroding like costics in our breasts: and I am suffering abundant anguish of this sort, from various causes. I spent, some years ago, ninety guineas, in vindicating the rights of a poor oppress'd servant; and even he proved thankless, and unworthy.

Though I have protracted this conversation into a very unseemly length, I beg leave to trespass a little farther on your patience, by recurring once more to the hateful object of your mis-

* I was nine or ten years equerry to the late Queen, who having been guilty of a breach of her promise to me, upon my first entering into her service, I resign'd my office.

§ Some of my nearest relations are included in this charge.

misguided favor, and will then release you. A very short recital, will specify those misbehaviours, of which, in my former letter, I gave your Highness a general hint only.

And, in the first place, she has lived in an almost avow'd disobedience, to every injunction and prohibition I ever laid ^{her} under. In the next, the violence of her temper is such, that the personal abuses my servants have suffer'd from her, as well as the gross indignities offer'd to myself, are totally incredible. Then she has squander'd my fortune as lavishly, as if prodigality had been a virtue, and she had been founding her fame upon a transcendancy in it. To enhance my bounty by the most delicate way of bestowing it, I sent her an hundred pounds once by her son, to supply some deficiencies created by play; which, in any body, circumstanced as she was, is reproachable beyond measure. I have paid debts, moreover, since her expulsion, to the amount of an hundred and seventy pounds: and to close this curious account with another observation of some note, I do further certify to your Highness, upon my honour and conscience, that, of twenty thousand pounds I have suffer'd her to cost me, she never had any rightful demand upon me, to the value of twenty shillings.

lings. But to fill the measure of my mortifications, in consequence of my weak, unadvised connection with this paragon in iniquity, it seems, tho' I certainly incurr'd it without cause, that I have not escaped the disgrace of cuckoldom. The whole female world, however, may learn from hence, that a woman may lose her character, without any violation of her honour ; and cannot lose her own, without affecting the husband's. So that my vain trifler, tho' she has done me no real injury, has made herself accountable to me, for the injury done to herself. In short, Madam, I hold my reputation as dear as any man : yet will pledge it with your Highness, and with all mankind, upon my giving further proofs, that this evil genius of mine, is not only the most confident, but the most unprincipled creature, that ever appear'd upon the earth. And such a supremacy, in a dissolute world, is a very signal pre-eminence.

Growing weary, at times, of ruminating on the perplexity in which you have so strangely involved me and my affairs, I often turn my thoughts to the occurrences of my past life. But this retrospect avails me very little ; for I do not find a single stage or period, through the whole, that is not mark'd with some sort of adversity.

adversity. But what amazes me most, is ; that with as gentle and pacific a disposition, as ever was in man ; I have spent a considerable part of it, in a state of warfare. My conscience, nevertheless, bears me witness, that I have not only wish'd to avoid all the strife and quarrels I have been engaged in ; but taken peculiar care in all, to have reason on my side. And having made this alliance, I depend upon the authority of Mr. Churchill, for a much better ; by concluding like him,

“ If Reason's with me, God is with me too.”

I shou'd ask pardon, Madam, for this trespass, but that you are suffering it by retortion only : Your Highness having been the first aggressor, in our unhappy conflict. To add affliction, to affliction, and disease to sorrow, is the consummation of inhumanity. And yet no less an impeachment now lies at your door. If you can still hear of a guilt like this, without the least compunction, or desire to atone for it, I shall not envy you the felicity of such a formation : I have suffer'd inexpressibly by being too sensitive ; yet cou'd never consent, to be entirely divested of my feelings. I am, with all due respect,

Your Highness's
most obedient, and

*Bond-Street,
March 5th.*

very humble servant,
THO. HERVEY.

A Copy of a LETTER to
Miss *Anne Coghlan*.

DEAR MADAM,

I Was so sensibly affected with the letter you gave me last night, that I most sincerely and ardently wish'd I had never made acquaintance with the author of it. But remember, my poor, dear, disconsolate fellow in affliction, from the inauspicious date of that acquaintance, I have labour'd to make acceptable to you a behaviour, which I knew I cou'd not make entirely satisfactory: and trimm'd between a brutal disregard of your partiality and professions to me, and such an encouragement to your love, as might have brought a most lasting reproach on *me*, and the utmost wretchedness on *you*. When ever I recover my health or senses enough, to feel an affection stirring in me again, you

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shall

shall be mistress of it. If ever my mind shou'd know any suspension of its own griefs again, it shall be a repository for yours: And be assured, in the mean time, that you can know neither joy nor grief, in which I shall not in some degree participate. I think I know you; and am certain I value you: and, as long as I think you *valuable*, shall be proud of *your* friendship, and happy, as often as you will give me an opportunity of testifying mine for you.

A Copy of a SECOND LETTER
to Miss *Anne Coghlan*.

DEAR MADAM,

THOUGH a very bad morning, preceded by a much worse night, prevented my seeing you to-day; I flatter myself, that you will not be displeased with this trifling token, that I have been thinking of you at least. But what shall I say to you? Tell me, poor, dear creature! if there is a possibility for me to behave myself toward you, so as to gain

gain *your* approbation, without forfeiting my own. Give me but my Clue, and I will observe it most attentively ; though you carry me through as many mazes and vagaries, as the capricious fancies of lighter women ever led youth and folly. for I cannot bear your reproaches : nor shou'd I in any instance have left myself liable to them, but to avoid my own ; which wou'd be still less supportable. To have been *innocently* accessary to the pain or affliction of another, would be punishment enough for me : But to think that you are suffering, or may hereafter suffer for, any I might have prevented, or removed, wou'd be such an aggravation of the hell within me, as I scarce conceived it capable of. The coldness with which I heard the first intimations of your hapless liking, I saw exposed me to your scorn ; which indeed you did not scruple to express, nor cou'd I blame. But the dilemma I was under upon this discovery was such, that I chose to meet your contempt, rather than your condemnation : As to all honest minds, it must be thought the eligible part of so disagreeable an alternative. The utter impossibility of my being in love, and the fruitlessness of such a passion for you, had the infirmities of my mind and

body left me susceptible of it; wou'd have made it highly blameable in me, to have given that encouragement to yours, which you wou'd have received from a man of more vanity, and less tenderness. I therefore appear'd unnatural, but to avoid being ungenerous, and *unjust*. However, the effect of this conduct was not answerable to my expectations: I found you at my return to town so changed, that I scarce knew you; and this by an infernal fever, of which you inhumanly told me my indifference had been the cause. Had my temper or condition been better known to you at that time, I am persuaded that the rightness of *your* heart, would have inclined you to spare *mine* the pang of such a reflection; and this charitable sense of your disposition, prevail'd on me to remain in charity with you. The inefficacy of my past treatment of you, determined me, for the future, to apply some palliative remedies to the disease I cou'd not cure; till by frequent attendance on you, like a thorough-paced phyfician, I became knave enough, not to wish my patient to recover too fast; and foolishly indulged myself in such a commerce with you, as will make me regret our separation, when I am to lose you, without

out deriving one pleasure or advantage to you from it, whilst I had the happiness to be with you. Don't you think that this must be extremely unpleasant to me? You have been for ever upbraiding me, for that which ought to have recommended me to you; and have, in reality, only abused *me*, because I would not *abuse* you.

I have put *myself* to great pain, to trouble you with this little remonstrance, but let it not *pain* you. Be assured, that I have a thorough sense of your merit, and a very grateful one, of your partiality for me. But all the merit, and all the beauty in the world, are nothing to a man in my condition: For where the power of attention is lost, all objects are alike. And this is so true, that in my present wretched state, I cou'd behold the beatific vision, with the same insensibility, as I cou'd be a spectator at *Ranelagh*. I have at this moment a weight upon my mind, that is more burthen some to it, than an Atlas wou'd be to my shoulders: And but that the great business, and purpose of my life are unaccomplish'd; upon my word, my poor, pretty thing, I cou'd quit it with greater glee, than the most sensual and voluptuous among the dead, cou'd
resume

resume his being, and return to it. In this confession, you have the utmost mark of my confidence : which is always accompanied with some degree of love and esteem. In it, perhaps, you may find a further solution of all you may have thought exceptionable in my behaviour to you. Read it therefore, as I have done you, with all suitable candor and compassion. Adieu.



F I N I S.